office to Godavarikhani. The matter is still *sub judice*. Efforts are being made to expedite a decision by the Court.

Waiving off of arrears of retired Army, Navy and Air Force Officers

1394. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to waive off recovery of 'arrears' worth Rs. 1.85 crores ordered by Controller of Defence Accounts, from about 1500 retired officers belonging to Army, Air Force and Navy after Court's intervention, as reported in Pioneer of 19th January, 2003; and

(b) if so, whether responsibility is being fixed for this financial loss coupled with infructuous expenditure incurred on court cases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The retrospective application of Government orders dated 31st January , 1991 on pay fixation of re-employed officers with effect from 1st January, 1986 resulted in the recoveries. This was, therefore, a systemic error not attributable to negligence or *malafide* on the part of any individual. Hence no responsibility can be fixed for the financial loss.

Movement of troops to peace-time locations

1395. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all border troops have moved back to their peace-time locations after more than a year; and

(b) if so, reasons with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The strategic relocation of troops by India is being carried out in a gradual manner without impairing the capacity to respond aggressively and decisively to any emergency and without lowering the vigil in Jammu and Kashmir. Consequently some units and formations have been moved to peace locations.